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Our doors are open

Approximately 3,000 people attended the two-day Open House at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, in July. Highlights included a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony, dance and musical performances by fine arts groups, historical displays, City service exhibits, Police K-9 and Bomb Squad demonstrations, Fire truck and Public Works equipment displays, and tours of the new facility. Bloomington Civic Plaza opened to serve the public in May. For more information on new City facilities, see page 2.



The first production in the new Schneider Theater for the Performing Arts

Bloomington Civic Theater's
Hello, Dolly!
starring
Sally Struthers.
See page 7.



Experience the arts

Bloomington has a new showcase for creativity!



Residents now have a greater opportunity to show their creative side. Bloomington Center for the Arts features a variety of performance art, dance, music, exhibits and classes for all ages.

A place to grow in the arts

The Center for the Arts, which opened in July, is owned and operated by the City of Bloomington and is housed in Bloomington Civic Plaza. In the past, there was no central location for residents to enjoy the arts; events were held throughout the city or in neighboring communities.

Culture for all ages

The 44,000 square foot Center for the Arts is home to eight organizations that comprise the Bloomington Fine Arts Council. It features a 366-seat theater with orchestra pit, a pottery and ceramics studio, visual arts classrooms and studios, and two art galleries.

Unique features

- The facility includes:
 - ◆ A 1,830 square foot "black box" theater that seats 100 people and can be used for drama classes, small one-act plays or dinner theater.
 - ◆ A dance studio that features a sprung (or cushioned) floor.
 - ◆ A spacious main lobby that can be used for events, theater intermissions, receptions and gatherings for special events.
 - ◆ A rehearsal hall to be used by the fine arts groups that is also available for selected meetings and smaller events.

◆ An artist-commissioned design will wrap around the stucco-finished northeast exterior corner of the theater.

Background

In 1999, a City Council-appointed task force presented a recommendation to construct a visual and performing arts center. Voters approved a bond referendum to construct the facility in June 2000.

Programs

The Bloomington Fine Arts Council offers many new programs and activities. Classes include yoga, ballet, dance, draw-

ing, painting and jewelry-making. For facility information, call Brenda Blume at 952-563-8881. For information on various arts programs, call the Bloomington Fine Arts Council at 952-563-8567 or 952-563-8578. ◆



Center for the Arts Benefactors

Thanks to a \$1 million donation by Allan and Deborah Schneider, an endowment fund was established to offset operational expenses for the facility. Their commitment and support of the arts in Bloomington helped make the Center for the Arts possible. **Something for everyone**



Allan and Deborah Schneider

"We've lived in Bloomington for more than 40 years, raised our children here and wanted to give back to the community," said Allan Schneider. "We wanted to do something that could be shared with everyone."

Privileged and honored

Deborah Schneider said the new Center for the Arts will help people expand their creativity, expose children to culture and raise the caliber of our community.

"We are very excited about the Center," she said. "We feel privileged and honored to be part of this and are proud of our community."

Community supporters

The Schneiders also contributed \$125,000 for the naming of the "Inez Greenberg Gallery" and the "Rose Schneider Gift Shop." These funds are being used for the Center's furniture, fixtures and equipment. The Schneiders are supporters of many other nonprofit groups in the community including Cornerstone, an organization that supports victims of family violence.

City of Bloomington
2215 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

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Services that strengthen our community



OLD TOWN HALL - 1892



FORMER MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 1964

Bloomington Civic Plaza - Built to serve you better



BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA - 2003

Project earns reader's thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to the planning and building of the new Bloomington Civic Plaza.

Congratulations on an exciting and informative introduction...what a send-off! Everything from the welcome to the displays was interesting and user-friendly.

And even more exciting is the fact that Bloomington has managed to build such a facility with minimal added taxpayer cost. It is an impressive evidence of prudent handling of taxes and annual budgets. I thank you for all you did to bring it to reality.

Theressa J. Frost,
Bloomington

Reprinted from *Bloomington Sun Current*, July 24, 2003.

By Mayor Gene Winstead

For 70 years the seat of Bloomington's government resided at Old Town Hall before moving across the street to the former municipal building at 2215 West Old Shakopee Road in 1964. Almost 40 years later, our city's government moved down the street to the Bloomington Civic Plaza. Our new government facilities reflect the motto on the dedication monument, "Built from savings, dedicated to service." They will provide enhanced services to serve a prosperous, growing community.

Continuation and improvement of service

The construction and reconstruction within Bloomington Civic Plaza enables the City to meet residents' needs for at least the next five decades. The facilities follow these Guiding Principles, composed by the Facilities Task Force in 1999:

Create a City campus

Completion of Bloomington Civic Plaza creates a campus of buildings that includes City Hall/Police/Arts Center, Public Works, Animal Shelter, Public Health Center and Motor Vehicle Registration. By centrally locating City functions, services are more accessible to the public and communication and efficiency is improved among employees.

Be mindful of citizen's money

The City Hall/Police/Arts Center was constructed at a total cost of \$38 million. By using operational savings, property taxes to support City buildings will not increase beyond 2002 levels. Financing included savings accumulated over 12 years in a capital replacement fund, a Police Retirement Fund Merger Reimbursement, the issuance of Bloomington Port Authority Lease Revenue Bonds and a voter-approved referendum for the Center for the Arts.

Respect the value of City employees

It is important to provide a positive environment that helps attract and retain quality employees. The new facility will help City staff to provide the best service possible including:

- ◆ Large front counters to serve customers at key areas such as Parks and Recreation, Assessing, City Clerk, Community Development and Police.
- ◆ Rooms that are available to meet with customers.
- ◆ Increased work and storage areas to help staff efficiently fill requests and quickly answer questions.

Renew and rejuvenate

Bloomington Civic Plaza redeveloped a highly visible location at 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road. This made the former municipal site at 2215 West Old Shakopee Road available for redevelopment. The housing proposed by the developer on the former site will have approximately five times the value of the commercial property the City acquired for the Civic Plaza facility. With about 160 new housing units, the net result will be a substantial increase in the City's tax base.

Built to last

When the Task Force studied the need for new facilities, they believed that public facilities should be quality facilities, built to serve our citizens and built to last. Distinctive buildings, such as the City Hall/Police/Arts Center facility, have longer lives because people tend to preserve them. In addition, materials used to construct the facility, including stone, brick and copper, were chosen for their durability. These materials have a life expectancy of at least 75 years. Two expansion spaces were also incorporated into the building for future needs.

Built to serve

Investing in City facilities sends the signal to prospective residents and businesses that Bloomington is a viable place for the future, and that our community is on par with other metropolitan area cities. Improving City facilities sets the tone for the next fifty years. Please stop by to see the "citizens' building"; built to serve you and future generations of Bloomington residents. ◆



City adopts new logo

The City adopted a new logo to replace the "Bubbling B" symbol in use since 1976. A color version that depicts a cityscape framed by the Minnesota River was approved by the City Council in July. The logo will be implemented citywide to identify our organization to the public. Next steps include applying the logo to signs, vehicles, stationery and uniforms. Citywide application will occur over the next year. For information, call Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818. ◆

Bloomington City Council

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Photographs of elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.

Visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

The **Briefing**, a bimonthly newsletter published by the municipal government organization of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, is mailed to Bloomington residents and businesses. Direct comments or suggestions to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; e-mail dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us. If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

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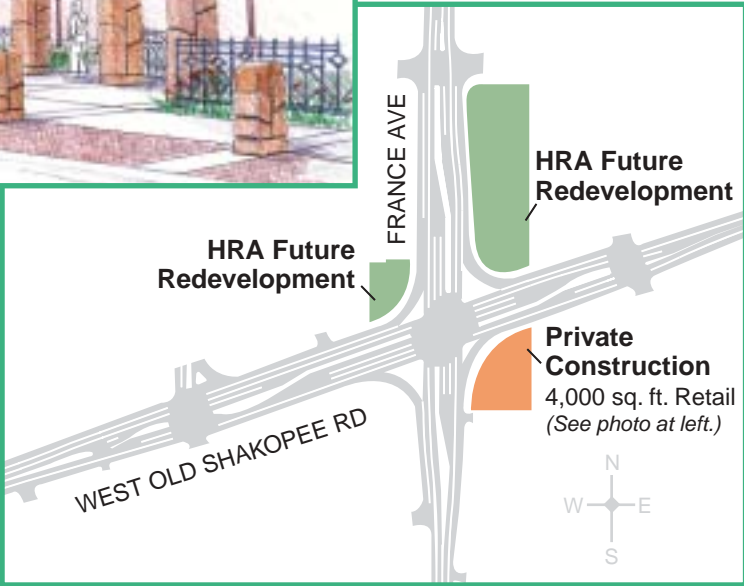
The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. • The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

Intersection improvements at France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road

The intersection at France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road is getting a new look. Public improvements including street widening, new turn lanes, sidewalks, signals, medians and landscaping will begin in spring 2004. The City is acquiring three properties and easements from 17 other properties in the area of the intersection. For more information, call Schane Rudlang at 952-563-4861. ♦



This illustration is an example of the streetscape at France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road.



Future redevelopment

Private and public redevelopment activities are projected for the intersection of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. In June, private construction began on the southeast corner to build a 4,000 square foot retail

building. See photo above left. One of the tenants will be Caribou Coffee. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has acquired properties on the northeast quadrant for future redevelopment and will solicit development proposals this year. The HRA also owns the corner site on the northwest quadrant of the intersec-

tion, which is anticipated to be part of a future redevelopment project. A redevelopment schedule has not been established. For more information, call Housing and Redevelopment Authority Administrator Regina Harris at 952-563-8940.

Procession moved seat of Bloomington's government



Bloomington history was revisited as the City's seat of government was symbolically moved at a City Council meeting in June. About 150 people took part in a procession that began at Old Town Hall, Bloomington's city hall from 1892 to 1964. They moved across the street to the former Municipal Building at 2215 West Old Shakopee Road and ended at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Procession

Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order at Old Town Hall. A historical presentation noted that Bloomington's government has always been located on Old Shakopee Road. The meeting moved to the old municipal site where the Mayor recognized visionary leaders who have served the community.

New dedication

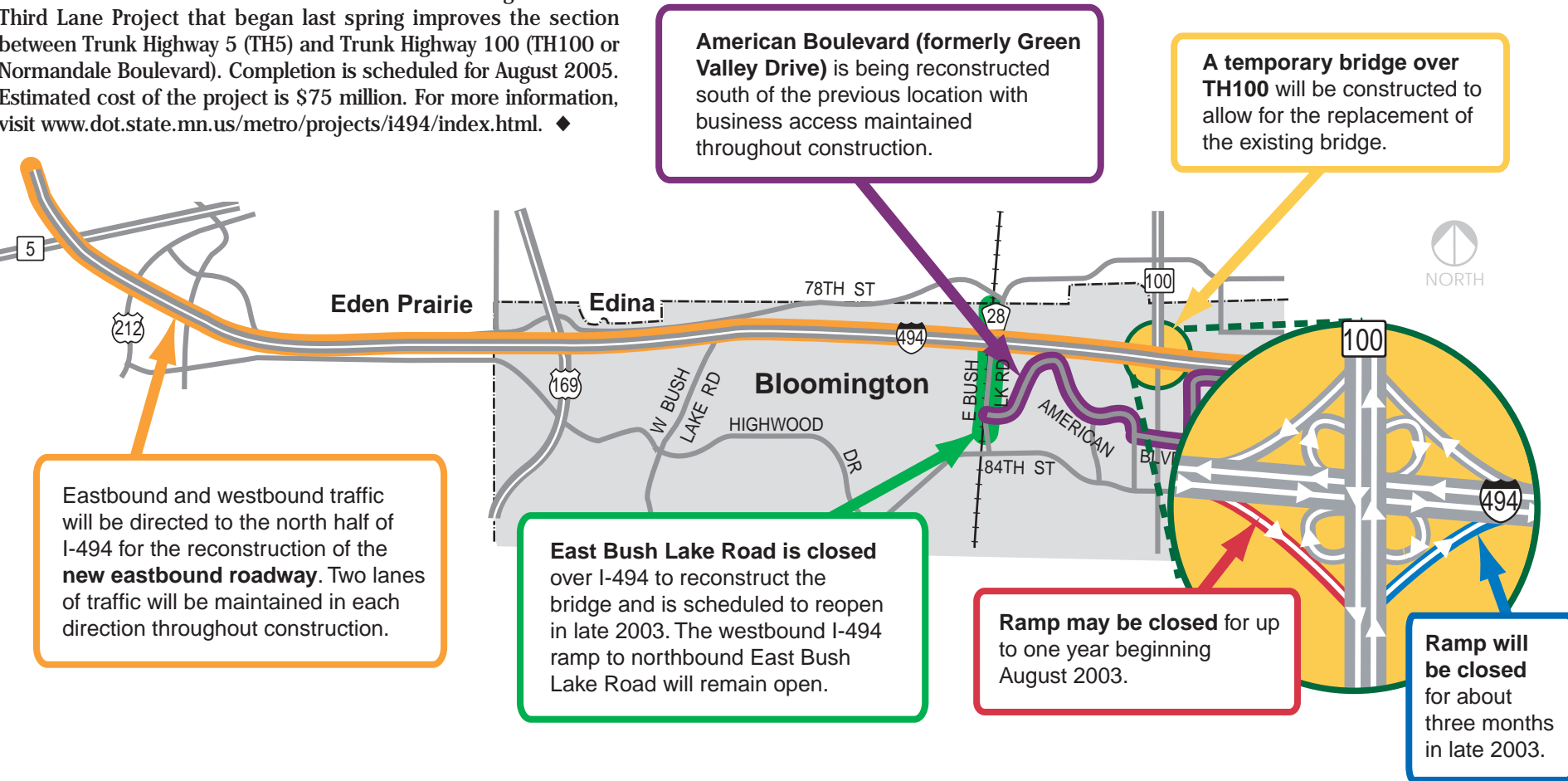
Councilmembers, the Facilities Task Force, residents, City staff, VFW Post 1296 Honor Guard, American Legion Post #550 Honor Guard, Boy Scout Troop #328, Girl Scout Troop #1877, Bloomington Medalist Band musicians, police squads and fire trucks carried a plaque that read, "Built from savings, dedicated to progress" from the old municipal site to Bloomington Civic Plaza. The plaque was placed alongside the new building's plaque, "Built from savings, dedicated to service" at an open house on July 12.

Serving you

Bloomington Civic Plaza opened to serve the public in May. The new facility houses Police, City administrative functions and the Bloomington Center for the Arts. For more information, call Clark Arneson at 952-563-8921 or e-mail carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ♦

2003 Construction on I-494 Third Lane Project

A third lane is being constructed in each direction for a segment of the I-494 corridor in efforts to ease traffic congestion. The Third Lane Project that began last spring improves the section between Trunk Highway 5 (TH5) and Trunk Highway 100 (TH100 or Normandale Boulevard). Completion is scheduled for August 2005. Estimated cost of the project is \$75 million. For more information, visit www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494/index.html. ♦



Natural Resource

Managing your shoreline

A properly managed shoreline is the most important tool you can use to protect our waterbodies. Tips include:

- ◆ Leave a buffer zone of unmanaged grasses or natural vegetation at least 20 feet wide along the shoreline.
- ◆ Keep grass two to three inches in height.
- ◆ Plant native vegetation or terrace steep banks.
- ◆ Don't tamper with existing wetlands.
- ◆ Use a drop spreader for a precise fertilizer application. ◆

Source: **Your Lake and You**, North American Lake Management Society, 1998.



Every drop counts

Water is a precious natural resource. Follow these tips to reduce your water use and protect our waterbodies from contamination.

Inside

- ◆ Fill a plastic bottle with water, seal the lid and drop it in your toilet tank to save approximately two gallons per flush.
- ◆ Turn water off while brushing your teeth or washing dishes.
- ◆ Run only a fully loaded dishwasher or washer.
- ◆ Install a low-flow aerator on showerheads and faucets; repair leaks.
- ◆ Use water from fish tanks to water plants. Fish emulsion is a good, inexpensive fertilizer high in nitrogen and phosphorous.

Outside

- ◆ Save our lakes and streams: use phosphate-free detergents and environmentally-friendly lawn care products; reduce chemical use.
- ◆ Mulch around trees and plants to help retain water.
- ◆ Water your lawn in the early morning or evening; avoid watering the street or sidewalk.
- ◆ Dispose of motor oil properly. One quart of motor oil can contaminate more than 250,000 gallons of water.
- ◆ Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers, abandoned free-flowing wells, etc.) to the property owner, local authorities or the water management district.

For more ways to save water, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "water conservation." ◆

Bush Lake invasive plant study

A three-year study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will treat two invasive aquatic plant species, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, in Bush Lake beginning April 2004.

Treatments

Chemical treatments, a combination of two aquatic herbicides, will be applied each spring when recreational use is limited. The ACOE will study the effectiveness of herbicides at delaying invasive plant growth and encouraging native plant growth.

Yearly evaluations

Signs will be posted to inform lake users of the treatments' impacts, including no swimming for one day, no eating of the lake's fish for three days and no irrigation or ingesting of water by people or pets for two weeks in the affected areas. During the study, the lake's water quality, vegetation, aquatic insects and fish will be evaluated yearly.

Stop invasive plants from spreading

Eurasian watermilfoil are able to root from a single plant segment and can be transported from lake to lake by clinging to boats or trailers. Always remove weeds from your boat before leaving the boat ramp area.

For more information, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/exotics/aquaticplants/index.html. ◆

Public Safety

Youth: Learn about the Police Department

Want a great way to get involved in your community, make new friends and learn more about your Police Department? Bloomington Police Explorers are seeking qualified applicants to join the post.

Law enforcement activities

The Bloomington Police Department has sponsored an Explorer Post since 1972, making it one of the earliest established posts in Minnesota. Explorers are youth, ages 15 to 20, who are interested in learning more about law enforcement. Activities include:

- ◆ Participating in scenario training including traffic stops, arrest tactics and hostage negotiations.
- ◆ Conducting tours of the Police facility.
- ◆ Working with Police on community service projects.



- ◆ Attending state and national competitions.

Annual recruitment drive

The annual recruitment drive will be held on Tuesday, September 23, at 7 p.m. at the Bloomington Police Department, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Applicants

must pass an interview and background check. For more information, call Officer Jim Caauwe at 952-563-8890 or Sergeant Chuck Gollop at 952-563-2202. ◆

Get to know your local fire station

Open House

Visit your local fire station
Saturday, October 11
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Station No.	Address
1	10 West 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. So.
3	2050 East 86th St.
4	4201 West 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Rd.
6	8601 Lakeview Rd.

The City's six fire stations will celebrate Fire Prevention Week with an open house on Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A variety of activities and demonstrations will be featured along with t-shirts and temporary tattoos for kids. Fire trucks, police squad cars and Public Works equipment will also be on display. For more information, call Roxy Markkanen at 952-881-4062.

Kids, gather up your crayons and markers!

The Fire Department is sponsoring a poster contest. The theme for this year's event is "Get Out! Stay Out!"

When school starts, talk to your teacher or call Fire Station No. 1 at 952-881-4062 to receive a poster to color. To download the poster from the City's Web site visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "poster contest." ◆

Bloomington Yesterday

L.A. Reed home – 9433 Riverview Circle

The third oldest home in Bloomington was built in 1869 by St. Paul attorney F.X. Brosseau and his wife Margaret, daughter of Peter Quinn, the first white settler in Bloomington. Commonly known as the "L.A. Reed home," it has had only four owners.

Louis A. Reed purchased the home from Brosseau in 1896. Reed, Hennepin County Attorney from 1899-1900, maintained a prominent law office in the Minneapolis area. The home remained in the Reed family for 60 years.

The original structure was "L-shaped," a main house and wing, with an outside staircase to an upper floor ballroom. An addition was constructed at the turn of the last century.

In 1956, Donald and Ann McCree bought the



home and lived there until 1984, when the home was purchased by current owner Rich Cress. The house has been maintained to its original design and construction.

A marker out front, also used as a carriage step, displays Reed's name and the home's previous address, 1629 [East Old Shakopee Road]. See insert. The house

was a popular water stop for Fort Snelling soldiers traveling to Shakopee.

Sources: Rich Cress, Thomas Holman and the Minnesota Historical Society. ◆